

# **IRTS RADIO NEWS BULLETIN Sunday June 7th 1998**

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## **WestNet visit the Saltees**

Members of the WestNet Group together with the Swiss based Saltee Dog DX Group will be active from the Great Saltee Island from the 25th to the 29th of June.

Activity will be on all bands and modes, 160 to 2 metres and worked All Ireland square chasers should note that the square is X99 and the group will be visit the WAI frequency of 3.680MHz when conditions allow. The IOTA number for the Saltees is EU103.

Fifteen operators are making the trip, four of them are from HB9, 3 from GI, 1 from GW and 7 from EI.

The callsign will be EJ7NET and QSLs for this operation should be directed to Tony EI2GX.

The group plan to QSL all contacts via the bureau system.

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## **Worked All Ireland Activity**

Declan Lennon EI9HQ was out and about last weekend and activated squares in Meath, Kildare, Laois, Offaly, Westmeath, Tipperary, Galway and Roscommon.

Declan set out on Saturday morning, stayed overnight in Athlone and headed West on Sunday afternoon, covering Galway and Roscommon and returned again to Athlone for an another overnight stay.

On Monday he headed down the West bank of the Shannon, crossing at Shannonbridge and headed home via Banagher, Portumna, Birr, Mountmellick and Kildare.

In all, Declan activated well over 100 squares over the three days and there was a good number of operators on the net at all times. Mobile activity has been scarce of late and with lots of amateurs now equipped to operate from the car we look forward to lots of activity over the coming months. Many WAI fans are waiting for some islands to qualify for the various awards. As well as the Saltees mentioned earlier,

other islands to look out for are Bere Island, being activated by the East Cork Group and the Blaskets being activated by Anthony EI2HY and Mike EI2IB both during the IOTA contest over the last weekend in July and for the week before that, a group from Galway will be on Innishbofin.

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### **Elphin Windmill on The Air**

The Midland Radio Experimenters Club will be operating a special event station from the Windmill at Elphin on Sunday June 21st next.

The club had a very successful outing to the same venue last year during the Mills On the Air day and generated lots of interest in amateur radio.

They expect to be on air on all the HF bands and on 2 metres. Anyone interested can get more information from Martin Scanlon EI4IJ at QTHR.

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### **New IOTA Club Category**

The Islands On The Air committee has opened up its programmes to include clubs and DX groups and the new club category will run in parallel with the existing categories.

Clubs or DX groups may apply for entry into the new club section using a group or club callsign. To qualify, they need to provide confirmation of contact with a minimum of 100 islands with all QSOs having been made from the same DXCC Country.

All scores will be listed annually.

The IOTA committee expects this development to open up and promote friendly competition among clubs worldwide. This new category will especially benefit multi-operator island teams participating in the IOTA contest.

This contest will take place this year over the weekend of July 25th and 26th.

The annual RSGB HF and IOTA Convention is well worth a visit for anyone active on the HF bands. It will be held over the weekend of October 9th, 10th and 11th at Beaumont Conference Centre, Old Windsor in Berkshire.

It will feature two days of lectures covering both operating and technical developments and the partners programme will be a trip to Windsor Castle.

Full information from the RSGB offices.

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### **Worked All GI Award**

A new award manager has been appointed to run the Worked All GI Award. He is Roy Smyth GI4GBG, 58 Gilnahirk Road, Belfast, BT5 7DH, Northern Ireland.

To qualify for the WAGI Award you need to work four stations in Antrim, four in Down and two in each of the other four counties. The stations must be fixed stations so mobile or portable stations do not count.

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### **Fly your QSL on Phase 3-D**

Amsat-North America have come up with a novel idea to raise more funds for the Phase 3-D project.

They are offering amateurs a chance to have their QSL cards put into orbit. Send them your card, which will be scanned and saved onto a CD-ROM, which will be secured to the Phase 3-D Spacecraft and launched with the satellite.

AMSAT-NA is suggesting a minimum donation of 25 USdollars and proceeds from this venture will be used to offset some of the overall costs of the Phase 3-D programme.

This is a limited time offer and anyone interested in getting involved can get the full details from the news team.

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Items for inclusion in the Radio News can be faxed to 021-632730 or passed on the telephone to Dave EI4BZ at 021- 632444 during the day and at 021-883555 in the evening.

Input for the Newsletter should be sent to Kevin EI7IM at QTHR or on 01-4509514 or on E-mail to EI7IM@tinet.ie

All input to either the Radio News or the Newsletter can also be sent by e-mail to news@irts.ie

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